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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,032	07/31/2001	Hans Jurgen Pohs	320.40246X00	7916
20457	7590	08/12/2004	EXAMINER	
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP 1300 NORTH SEVENTEENTH STREET SUITE 1800 ARLINGTON, VA 22209-9889			CHAWAN, SHEELA C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	6

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/869,032

Applicant(s)

POHS, HANS JURGEN

Examiner

Sheela C Chawan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 6, 7, 9-22, 26-29, 31-47, 49, 52-56, 59-70, 72, 75-80, 82 and 83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5, 8, 23-25, 30, 48, 50, 51, 57, 58, 71, 73, 74 and 81 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 July 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Preliminary Amendment***

1. Preliminary amendment filed on 7/22/01 has been entered.

***Priority***

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

***Drawings***

3. The Examiner has approved drawings filed on 7/26/01.

***Specification***

4. This application does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR 1.72(b). An abstract on a separate sheet is required.

The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

**Arrangement of the Specification**

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or  
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a). "Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.

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- (1) Field of the Invention.
- (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negative by the manner in which the invention was made. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patent ability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a

later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-4, 6,7, 9-12, 15, 18, 20-22, 26-29, 31, 34, 37, 41-43, 46, 52, 54, 55, 61, 66-70, 75 - 80 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujieda et al. (US. 6,011,860), in view of Kato et al. (US.5,077,803).

As to claim 1, Fujieda discloses device for personal identification by means of at least one fingerprint with at least one light source (10) (fig 3, item 24) for illuminating and/or trans illuminating the forward area of a finger (column 5, lines 49- 51) by means of light pulses and with at least one fiber optic finger (fig 3, item 23) resting surface (30) (fig 1, item 23) for taking an optical picture of the fingerprint, by which finger resting surface (30) (column 5, line 19 through column 6, line 27) the optical image can be transported to at least one sensor unit (40) ( fig 3, line 26) in which the optical image can be converted into electrical signals ( column 5, line 19 through column 6, line 27), at least one light source (10) being located laterally next to the finger resting surface (30) and the light on the light source (10) can be radiated in the direction to the side of the finger resting surface (30) which is intended for resting the forward area of the finger and which faces away from the sensor unit (40) (column 5, lines 56-67).

Fujieda discloses a fingerprint collation system of personal identification. Fujieda is silent about wherein the duration and/or the intensity of the light pulses emitted by at least one light source (10) can be controlled depending on the ambient light conditions.

Kato discloses a biological detecting system and a fingerprint collating system employing that biological detecting system. The system comprises of:

wherein the duration and/or the intensity of the light pulses emitted by at least one light source (10) can be controlled depending on the ambient light conditions (column 1, lines 60 through column 2, line 3).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Fujieda to include wherein the duration and/or the intensity of the light pulses emitted by at least one light source (10) can be controlled depending on the ambient light conditions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fujieda by the teaching of Kato in order to determine whether or not the sample is a biological object (as suggested by Kato at column 1, line 63 through column 2, line 1-3).

As to claim 2, Fujieda discloses device wherein at least one evaluation unit (fig 3, item 29, evaluation unit corresponds to collation unit) (70a) is located downstream of the sensor unit (40) (fig 3, item 26 image sensor).

As to claim 3, Fujieda discloses device wherein the amplification of the electrical signals in the sensor unit (40) and/or in the evaluation unit (70a) is variable over the different regions of the optical image (column 5, line 56 through column 6, line 4 ).

As to claim 4, Fujieda discloses device wherein the amplification of the electrical signals in the middle regions of the optical picture are greater than the amplification of the electrical signals in the edge regions of the optical image (column 6, lines 17- 27).

As to claim 6, Fujieda discloses device wherein at least one storage unit (70b) is

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located downstream of the sensor unit (40) (fig 11, item 33d).

As to claims 9 and 34, Fujieda discloses device wherein the acquisition module is made integrally with the sensor unit (40) and/or as part of the sensor unit (40) (fig 3, item 25 and 26).

As to claim 10, Fujieda discloses device wherein the evaluation module is made integrally with the evaluation unit (70a) and/or as part of the evaluation unit (70a) (fig 3, item 29, evaluation unit corresponds to collation unit).

As to claim 11, Fujieda discloses device wherein the storage module is made integrally with the storage unit (70b) and/or as part of the storage unit (70b) (fig 11, item 33d).

As to claim 12, Fujieda discloses device wherein the control means (40, 70) is made as at least one logic component and/or as at least one logic circuit (column 2, lines 12- 20).

As to claim 18, Fujieda discloses device wherein there is more than one light source (10) (fig 3, item 24, column 5, lines 56- 67).

As to claim 20, Fujieda discloses device wherein the light sources (10) are arranged symmetrically to one another (fig 34a, 34b, 34c, are LED as a light sources).

As to claim 21, Fujieda discloses device wherein the light sources (10) are located laterally or annularly around the finger resting surface (30) (fig 11, column 9, lines 4-13).

As to claim 22, Fujieda discloses device wherein the light source (10) is located uniformly distributed around the finger resting surface (30) (fig 3, item 24).

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As to claim 26, Fujieda discloses device wherein the light source (10) is located on the side of the finger resting surface (fig 4, two light sources 24a and 24b, column 5, lines 56- 60) (30) facing the sensor unit (40) (fig 3, item 26 image sensor).

As to claim 27, Fujieda discloses device wherein the light source (10) is spaced laterally away from the sensor unit (40) (fig 3 and fig 4).

As to claim 28, Fujieda discloses device wherein the light from the light source (10) is radiated in laterally in to the side of the finger resting surface (30) which is intended for resting the forward region of the finger and which faces away from the sensor unit (40) (fig 4, two light sources 24a and 24b, column 5, lines 56- 60).

As to claim 52, Fujieda discloses device wherein the sensor unit (40) is located on at least one carrier unit (50) (column 5, lines 29- 40).

As to claim 61, Fujieda discloses device wherein the finger resting surface (30) has an extension, which extends into the area above the light source (10) (fig 3, item 24 light source).

As to claim 66, Fujieda discloses device wherein there is at least one filter (column 6, lines 17-27).

As to claim 67, Fujieda discloses device wherein the filter (90) is a linear filter (column 7, lines 38- 43, column 10, lines 25- 33).

As to claim 68, discloses device wherein the filter (90) is located between the finger resting surface (fig 3, item 27 finger, column 5, lines 20- 67) (30) and the sensor unit (40) (fig 3, item 26).



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As to claim 69, Fujieda discloses device wherein the filter (90) is located on the side of the finger resting surface (30) facing away from the sensor unit (40) and/or on the side of the finger resting surface (30) facing the sensor unit (40) surface (fig 4, two light sources 24a and 24b, column 5, lines 56- 60) (30) facing the sensor unit (40) (fig 3, item 26 image sensor).

As to claim 70, Fujieda discloses device wherein there is a filter (90) within the finger resting surface (30) (fig 3, item 28).

As to claim 75, Fujieda discloses device wherein the sensor unit (40) directly borders the finger resting surface (30) and/or wherein the sensor unit (40) is attached to the exit surface of the finger resting surface (30) surface (fig 4, two light sources 24a and 24b, column 5, lines 56- 60) (30) facing the sensor unit (40) (fig 3, item 26 image sensor).

As to claim 76, Fujieda discloses device wherein the sensor unit (40) has at least one photosensitive surface and/or at least one photosensitive layer (fig 3, item 21).

As to claim 77, Fujieda discloses device wherein the sensor unit (40) operates on a semiconductor basis (column 5, lines 56- 59).

As to claim 78, Fujieda discloses device wherein the sensor unit (40) operates on a silicon basis (column 6, lines 10-16).

As to claim 79, Fujieda discloses device one component based on CMOS technology or at least one circuit based on CMOS technology (CMOS = complementary MOS) (column 6, lines 5- 16).

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As to claim 80, Fujieda discloses device wherein the sensor unit (40) has at least one charge-coupled component or at least one charge-coupled circuit (CCD = charge coupled device) (fig 3, item 26, image sensor).

As to claim 7, Kato discloses device wherein there is at least one control means 36 (40, 70) for controlling the duration and/or the intensity of the light pulses (column 1, line 62 through column 2, line 1- 3).

As to claim 15, Kato discloses device wherein the device is designed for passage into a neutral state (column 9, lines 10 –22).

As to claim 29, Kato discloses device wherein the light source (10) is made as a pulsed light source (column 1, lines 61 through column 2, lines 1-3).

As to claim 31, Kato discloses device wherein there is at least one pulser unit for controlling the light source (10) (column 1, lines 61 through column 2, lines 1-3).

As to claim 37, Kato discloses device wherein the optical system (20) deflects the light radiated from the light source (10) onto the side of the finger resting surface (30) facing away from the sensor unit (40) and/or wherein the optical system (20) distributes the light radiated from the light source (fig 33) (10) uniformly and/or diffusely on the side of the finger resting surface (30) facing away from the sensor unit (40).

As to claim 41, Kato discloses device wherein there is at least one finger guide on the side of the finger resting surface (30) which is provided for placement of the forward area of the finger and which faces away from the sensor unit (40) (column 2, lines 12- 20, column 3, lines 4-18, column 5, lines 29- 40).

As to claim 42, Kato discloses device wherein the finger guide is shaped ergonomically (column 5, lines 29- 40).

As to claim 43, Kato wherein the optical system (20) is made as a finger guide (column 5, lines 29- 40, 41-55).

As to claim 46, Kato discloses device wherein the light source (10) is a light emitting diode (LED) (column 1, lines 60 through column 2, line 3).

As to claim 54, Kato discloses device wherein the fibers in the finger resting surface are located essentially perpendicular to the entry surface and/or to the exit surface of the finger resting surface (column 15, lines 43- 59).

As to claim 55, Kato discloses device wherein the fibers in the finger are located essentially parallel to one another (column 12, lines 5-18).

6. Claims 13, 14, 16,17, 19, 32-33, 35-36, 38-39, 40-45, 47,49, 53, 56, 59, 60, 72, and 83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujieda et al. (US. 6,011,860), in view of Kato et al. (US.5,077,803), as applied to claims 1-4, 6, 7, 9-12, 15, 18, 20-22, 26-31, 37, 41-43, 46, 52, 54, 55, 61, 66-70, 75 - 80 above and further in view of Roustaei (US.6,347,163 B2).

Regarding claim 13, Fujieda discloses a fingerprint collation system of personal identification. Fujieda is silent about device wherein there is at least one standard logic component or programmable logic (FPGA = field programmable gate array) as the control means (40, 70).

Roustaei discloses a system and method for reading two- dimensional images, such as fingerprints, signatures, and photographs, using an optical scanning head and a data compression algorithm. The system comprises of:

device wherein there is at least one standard logic component or programmable logic (FPGA = field programmable gate array) as the control means (40, 70) (column 6, lines 33- 58). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fujieda to include device wherein there is at least one standard logic component or programmable logic (FPGA = field programmable gate array) as the control means. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fujieda by the teaching of Roustaei in order to optimize space on the PCB (as suggested by Roustaei at column 6, lines 57- 58).

As to claim 14, Roustaei discloses device wherein the control means (40, 70) is made as at least one digital signal processor (DSP) and/or as at least one micro controller (column 6, lines 44- 52).

As to claim 16, Roustaei discloses device wherein there is at least one capacitive circuit (75) by which the device after a stipulated interval of non-use passes into the neutral state (column 16, lines 60- 67, column 17, lines 1-5).

As to claim 17, Roustaei discloses device wherein the capacitive circuit (75) is integrated into the control means (40, 70) (column 16, lines 60- 67, column 17, lines 1- 5).

As to claim 19, Roustaei discloses device wherein there are four light sources (10) (a controller for generating a plurality of control signals for controlling activation of said light source and said detector (column 3, lines 7-18).

As to claim 32, Roustaei discloses device wherein there is at least one a display means for displaying the various operating states of the device (column 18, lines 48-58).

As to claim 33, Roustaei discloses device wherein the display means (65) has at least one monochrome or polychrome LED display which signals the various operating states of the device (fig 14, element 1406, column 18, lines 48- 58).

As to claim 35, Roustaei discloses device wherein the display means (65) signals the various operating states of the device by at least one blinking and/or pulsing light signal (column 6, lines 54- 58).

As to claim 36, Roustaei discloses device wherein at least one optical system (20) is located downstream of the light source (10) (column 3, lines 47- 50, column 6, lines 59- 65, column 11, lines 8- 11).

As to claim 38, Roustaei discloses device wherein the optical system (20) is made as at least one filter, at least one lens, as at least one prism, as at least one optical fiber, as at least one fiber optic element and/or as at least one mirror (column 3, lines 26- 46, column 5, lines 47- 60).

As to claim 39, Roustaei discloses device wherein the optical system (20) is made of plastic (column 1, lines 35- 57, column 22, lines 31- 49).

As to claim 40, Roustaei discloses device wherein at least the side of the optical system (20) facing away from the light source 1,10) is coated with a material (80) which

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is transparent to infrared light and/or to visible light (column 9, lines 17- 32, column 11, lines 20- 35).

As to claim 44, Roustaei discloses device wherein at least the side of the finger resting surface (30) facing away from the sensor unit (40) is coated with a material (80) which is transparent to infrared light and/or to visible light (column 9, lines 17-32, column 11, lines 20-35).

As to claim 45, Roustaei discloses device wherein the material (80), which is transparent to infrared light and/or visible light, is varnish (column 9, lines 17-32, column 11, lines 20- 35).

As to claim 47, Roustaei discloses device wherein the light source (10) emits infrared light (column 9, lines 17-32, column 11, lines 20- 35).

As to claim 49, Roustae discloses device wherein the light source (10) emits infrared light of two different wavelengths (column 7, lines 47- 58).

As to claim 53, Roustaei discloses device wherein the carrier unit (50) is located on at least one circuit board unit (60) (column 5, lines 11-36).

As to claim 56, Roustaei discloses device wherein the fiber in the finger resting surface have essentially two directions, which are arranged, at an angle (a) to one another (column 10, lines 9-20).

As to claim 59, Roustaei discloses device a wherein at least some of the fibers (310, 320) in the finger resting surface (30) are surrounded at least in sections by absorbing material in the form of a coating and/or in the form of a sleeve (column 9, lines 17-32, column 11, lines 20- 35).

As to claim 60, Roustaei discloses device wherein at least some of the fibers (310, 320) in the finger resting surface (30) are surrounded at least in sections by reflecting material in the form of a coating and/or in the form of a sleeve (column 11, lines 28- 34).

As to claim 72, Roustaei discloses device wherein the absorption factor of the filter (90) is variable over the various regions of the optical image (column 3, lines 26-46, column 5, lines 47-60).

As to claim 83, Roustaei discloses device wherein the device is battery-operated (column 5, lines 56- 65).

7. Claims 62 – 65 and 82 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujieda et al. (US. 6,011,860), in view of Kato et al. (US.5,077,803), in view of Roustaei (US.6,347,163 B2), as applied to claims 1- 4, 6, 7, 9-22, 26-29, 31-47, 49, 52-56, 59- 61, 66-70,72, 75-80 and 83 above and further in view of Harkin (US.6,327,376 B1).

Regarding claim 62, Fujieda discloses a fingerprint collation system of personal identification. Fujieda is silent about wherein within the finger resting surface there is at least one opaque blocking layer.

Harkin discloses an electronic apparatus comprising fingerprint sensing devices .The system comprises of:

wherein the finger resting surface (30) there is at least one opaque blocking layer (fig 3, column 3, lines 54-60, column 4, lines 36-41, column 6, lines 22-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to

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modify Fujieda to include wherein within the finger resting surface there is at least one opaque blocking layer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Fujieda by the teaching of Harkin in order to optimize transparent areas surrounding the sense electrodes (as suggested by Harkin at column 3, lines 54- 67).

As to claim 63, Harkin discloses device wherein the blocking layer (130) is made in the form of closed fibers (310) (column 7, lines 11-22).

As to claim 64, Harkin discloses device wherein there is at least one opaque blocking layer (140) between the light source (10) and the sensor unit (40) (column 3, lines 54-60, column 6, lines 22-46, column 7, line 55 through column 8, line 61).

As to claim 65, Harkin discloses device wherein the material of the opaque blocking layer (130, 140) is varnish (column 3, lines 54-60, column 6, lines 22-46, column 7, line 55 through column 8, line 61).

As to claim 82, Harkin discloses device wherein the device is designed for determining the oxygen saturation in the blood of the forward area of the finger by comparison of the results obtained for two different wavelengths (column 8, lines 1-39).

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

8. Claims 5, 8, 23-25, 30, 48, 50, 51, 57, 58, 71, 73, 74 and 81 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.



***Other prior art cited***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Suga (US.6,150,665) discloses fingerprint detecting device having a fluid layer sealed in a gap.

Lilley et al. (US.4,995,086) discloses arrangement and procedure for determining the authorization of individuals by verifying their fingerprints.

Lofberg (US.4,583,985) discloses data carrier.

Asai et al. (US.4,872,203) discloses image input device for processing a fingerprint prior to identification.

Tuli (US.5,942,761) discloses enhancement methods and devices for reading a fingerprint image.

**Contact Information**

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela C Chawan whose telephone number is 703-305- 4876. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 6 - 7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta can be reached on 703-308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*SC*

Sheela Chawan  
Patent Examiner  
Group Art Unit 2625  
August 6, 2004



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